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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Inventors: Koji IMURA, et al.

Art Unit: 2613

Application No.: 10/070,306

Filed: March 5, 2002

For: IMAGE DATA DECODING APPARATUS AND IMAGE DATA DECODING METHOD

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Technology Center 2600

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Rules 56 and 99, Applicants hereby call the attention of the Patent Office to the art listed on the attached Form PTO 1449. All of these references were cited in a Supplementary European Search Report dated October 29, 2003 (copy attached).

Applicants present this art so that the Patent Office may, in the first instance, determine any relevancy thereof to the presently claimed invention, see Beckman Instruments, Inc. v. Chemtronics, Inc., 439 F.2d 1369, 1380, 165 USPQ 355, 364 (5th Cir. 1970). Also see Patent Office Rules 104 and 106. Applicants respectfully request that this art be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and made of record herein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue herefrom.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Ledbetter
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Date: November 17, 2003

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JEL/spp

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